



Cape Lookout National Seashore

Off-Road Vehicle Educational Certificate

Procedures:

- Read Seashore Regulations listed on certificate.
- Provide your license plate number below. For a UTV or ATV, please provide make and color.
- Indicate whether you are camping or staying in one of the cabin camps.
- Exchange this form for your ORV Education Certificate Decal. **One certificate per vehicle only.**

License plate number

State

Check one: ☐ Cabin Camps ☐ Day Use ☐ Beach Camping

☐ Long Term Parking

ORV Educational Certificate Decal must be affixed to the bottom driver's side corner of the vehicle's windshield, or the bottom right side of the front bumper if the vehicle does not have a windshield.

Seashore Regulations

- Speed limit is 25mph unless otherwise posted.
- Driving in the dunes is prohibited.
- All vehicles must follow all NC state laws - wear your seatbelts and no open containers.
- All vehicles must follow the posted signs regarding wildlife protection zone closures.
- ATV operators must be at least 16 years of age, and wear a DOT helmet and glasses/goggles.
- Required equipment includes a shovel, low-pressure tire gauge, jack, and jack support board.
- Pets must be restrained on a leash not to exceed 6' or otherwise confined at all times.
- Do not approach, feed, or disturb any wildlife. Report beached marine mammals to the NPS.
- Beach fires must be below the high tide line and no more than 3' in diameter.
- Fireworks are prohibited.
- Drone use is prohibited.
- Metal detectors are prohibited.

For office use only: Decal #

Traffic and Safety

Questions and comments can be sent to calo_superintendent@nps.gov

Protection of Park Resources

Beach Driving Tips

Report emergencies to 911

- Pedestrians ALWAYS have the right-of-way. Slow to 15 mph when driving within 100 feet of a pedestrian anywhere on the beach.
- The speed limit on park beaches is 25 mph, unless otherwise posted.
- Driving or parking on vegetation is prohibited.
- Sound side driving is prohibited. Pay attention at the inlets for signs marking the ocean beach driving limit.
- When parked on the beach, leave room for two-way traffic to pass safely. Park along the shoreline in a single row of vehicles no more than one vehicle deep.
- Any law applicable to vehicle use on paved roads in the State of North Carolina also applies to ORV use at the Seashore. Operation of an ATV additionally requires proper wearing of a helmet and safety glasses or goggles. Operators must be at least 16 years of age. Passengers riding in the beds of pickups & UTVs MUST sit flat on the bed of the truck and not on side rails, wheel wells, camp chairs, coolers, etc.
- Open containers containing any type of alcoholic beverage are prohibited for any person within a motor vehicle, to include the bed of a pickup truck or UTV.
- Public consumption of spirituous liquors or fortified wines is prohibited.
- Reckless driving, such as cutting circles or defacing the beach is prohibited.
- To report violations, hazards or marine mammal strandings call: Harkers Island Visitor Center at (252) 728-2250.
- Please report dead or live stranded marine mammals to the closest Cape Lookout office with an accurate location. Stranded marine mammals should be treated with caution. The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits harassment and possession of parts. Do not push or pull a live stranding back into the water.
- Pets are prohibited within any resource protection closure or on the beach adjacent to pre-nesting closures.
- Remove all trash or litter from the beach including bait, fish parts, or dead fish. Trash attracts predators. Feeding wildlife (including birds) is strictly prohibited. Fish cleaning stations are available at the Cabin Camps.
- Return all fish that are not being kept for personal consumption back to the water alive, including skates and sharks.
- Beach camping is allowed on most Cape Lookout beaches. Camping on top of dunes or on heavily vegetated areas is prohibited. Camping for more than 14 consecutive days is prohibited.
- Only dump waste water and grey water at approved Cape Lookout dump stations.
- Dead or live stranded seabirds such as loons, gannets, etc. should be left alone and given space. Winter/late spring die offs are common. These seabirds come to shore to rest and are awkward on land. Please report obviously injured/entangled seabirds to the closest Cape Lookout office.
- Use only a four-wheel drive/AWD vehicle to drive on the beach. Two wheel drive vehicles will get stuck. Only 2 commercial tow companies service the seashore. Roadside assistance companies, such as AAA, will not come to the islands. The minimum cost to be towed is approximately \$500-\$800. Park Rangers may assist you, but they are not permitted to pull or tow other vehicles.
- Lower the pressure on all tires and drive at a slow, steady speed. Generally, drive with no more than 20 lbs. of pressure in each tire; however, the softer the sand, the lower the pressure needed. When you return to the paved road, re-inflate tires to normal pressure as soon as possible. Air compressors are available at Great Island and Long Point Cabin Camps for your convenience.
- Check the weather forecast and tide table chart before starting your trip. Pay attention to incoming tides. ORV routes may be impassible during periods of high tide.
- Before driving through any water, determine the depth and firmness of the underlying surface. Salt water is highly corrosive. It is recommended that you wash the vehicle after each outing including both the sheet metal and the undercarriage.
- Recommended equipment includes a tow strap, first aid kit, full-sized spare tire, trash bags, fire extinguisher, and if you are night driving, a flashlight.
- Refill holes and remove any boards or other aids after being stuck.